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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out enlarging variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for carrying out reducing variable-magnification processing, the reducing variable magnification unit writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after reducing variable-magnification processing is carried out during image reduction,

wherein ~~an~~ the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are separate units. processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or

~~a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction,~~
and

~~wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is an enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is a reduction.~~

Claims 2-8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

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a line memory for storing one line worth of the image data;
a plurality of image forming means;
a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;
a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and
a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing a number of the image forming means ~~from to~~ which one line worth of the image data is outputted by increasing and decreasing a number of the turning-on switching means by on/off-controlling the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, ~~wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction, or~~
~~a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction and~~
wherein each of the plurality of output lines from the line memory is connected in parallel to the plurality of image forming means.

10. - 11. (canceled).

12. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or

a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction.

13. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is an enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is a reduction.

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14. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 9, wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction.